

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

July 2004



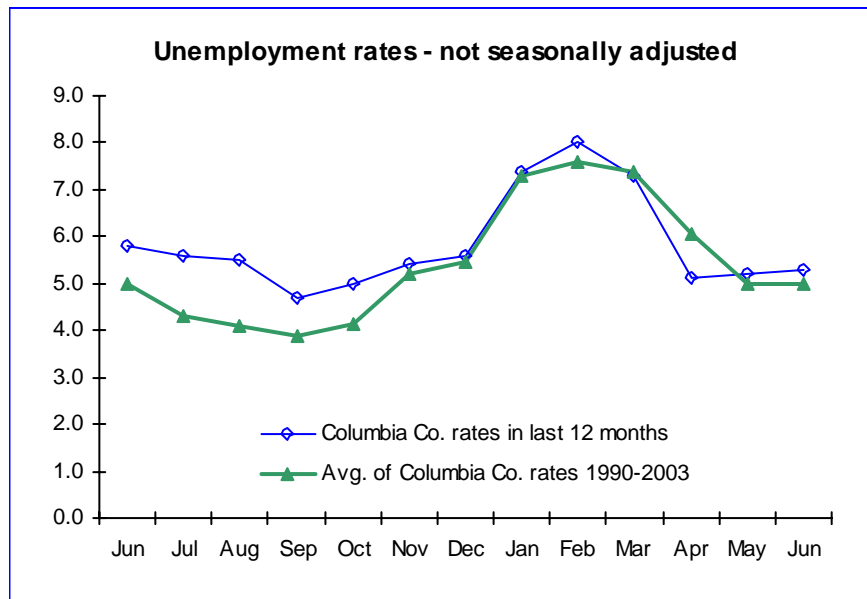
State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

Comparing this June to last June shows more favorable picture than comparing May to June

In June, **Columbia County's** unemployment rate rose slightly, instead of remaining stable, as it usually does. Except February, no month since last October has seen a rate further above its typical level. Whether comparing to employment levels last month or employment levels last year, leisure & hospitality continues to show. (This does not address questions relating to wages.) Heavy rainfall and flooding probably hindered construction, which showed stable growth nonetheless. Further gains may be possible when the weather is dry enough to repair and rebuild. In rough contours, manufacturing continues to last year's seasonal trends at lower levels; sustained improvement remains to be seen.

In **Dane County**, the unemployment rate's rise roughly mirrored the typical June rise. As students and other seasonal workers enter the labor force, they do not find their jobs immediately, so the rate rises. Construction job growth slowed from a sharp up-

tick in April to soggy growth in May and June, again attributable in part to weather. Wholesale trade has shown renewed strength since last October and the sector's job growth seems to sustain itself. The spring pickup in retail trade employment came late, but seems to be taking hold nicely. Transportation, warehousing & utilities has yet to regain jobs shed over the winter and spring.



Dodge County's rate now stands at 1.1 percent above its typical June rate. This is more encouraging than last June's rate (2.3 percent above typical) and winter rates (1.2 percent to 1.3 percent above typical), but not as encouraging as April and May rates (0.5 and 0.9 percent above typical, respectively). From June 2003 to January 2004, the information, profes-

sional, business & other services sector usually posted 250 to 350 jobs more than the same month a year earlier. Because the sector added fewer jobs from February to April this year than last year, the 1-year gains shrank to almost

Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

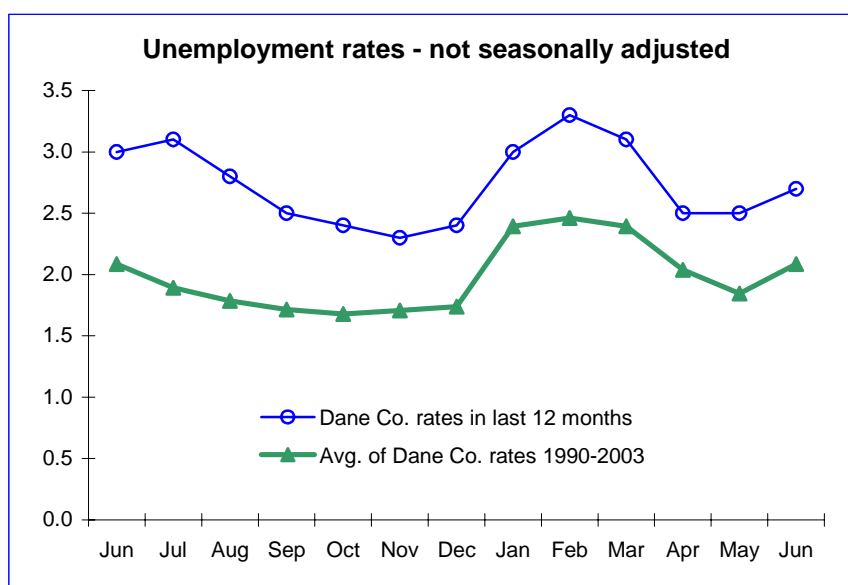
	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Jun 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	3,176,200	77,400	35,800	464,600	12,900	1,850	29,800	950	360	293,100	5,200	1,100
Employed	3,013,400	61,900	55,200	447,800	11,200	3,300	28,200	870	500	285,200	4,500	1,920
Unemployed	162,800	15,400	-19,460	16,700	1,690	-1,420	1,580	90	-140	8,000	700	-820
Unemployment rate (%)	5.1	0.3	-0.7	3.6	0.3	-0.3	5.3	0.1	-0.5	2.7	0.2	-0.3
	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Jun 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	49,600	1,790	140	44,500	1,830	200	7,200	250	30	40,300	2,900	20
Employed	46,900	1,360	720	42,000	1,490	-90	6,800	210	120	38,800	2,800	100
Unemployed	2,800	430	-580	2,500	350	290	470	40	-100	1,490	80	-80
Unemployment rate (%)	5.6	0.7	-1.2	5.6	0.6	0.7	6.5	0.3	-1.4	3.7	-0.1	-0.2

** Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are **NOT** seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

negligible levels. Leisure & hospitality job growth remains strong.

Despite March and April rates dipping somewhat closer to typical levels (1.3 percent and 0.9 percent above typical, respectively), the June rate in **Jefferson County** is 1.7 above the typical June rate, the biggest gap seen in the last year. Construction and leisure & hospitality continue to show strength comparable to recent months while information, professional, business & other services gathers steam.

After two months of below-typical unemployment rates, June saw **Marquette County** return to rates slightly above typical (though not as far above as rates from last June to this March). Comparing this April to June with the same period last year, construction's job growth is considerably softer



while leisure & hospitality seems to be healthy.

At 0.1 percent below the typical level, **Sauk County's** unemployment rate was more in line with September through December figures (0.0% to 0.2% below typical) and less in line with January through April figures (0.6% to 0.8% below typical). The construction sector and the retail & wholesale trade sector saw softer numbers in May and June than they had earlier this spring. While the

former went from being well above year-ago figures to being slightly above year-ago figures, the latter went from being slightly above year-ago figures to being slightly below year-ago figures. In general terms, leisure & hospitality and transportation, warehousing & utilities continue to follow last year's seasonal patterns fairly closely. The winter fluctuations in financial activities employment seem to be evening out.

Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Jun 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	2,870,600	36,800	46,800	436,900	6,300	40	21,500	530	140	301,200	1,800	100
Const., min'g & nat. resources	138,100	7,100	500	23,100	790	-240	1,230	60	50	15,500	400	-300
Manufacturing	518,900	10,500	9,300	58,700	590	-1,220	4,800	80	-110	27,100	200	-200
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	447,200	6,700	14,400	64,500	1,960	1,330	3,700	70	20	43,100	1,400	1,100
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	107,500	1,700	-200	10,800	90	-510	760	50	-10	7,000	-100	400
Financial activities	160,600	1,200	1,900	30,000	-30	290	680	10	70	25,800	-100	100
Education & health services	373,300	-2,100	8,500	44,800	270	880	2,300	-10	50	29,900	200	600
Leisure & hospitality	269,200	11,400	6,500	43,900	2,400	1,220	2,600	240	140	25,200	-100	300
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	442,300	6,700	11,700	67,200	1,190	1,000	1,720	50	60	53,300	900	800
Government	413,500	-6,400	-5,800	94,100	-950	-2,700	3,800	0	-130	74,300	-1,100	-1,900
	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Jun 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jun 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	34,700	650	110	36,400	930	30	3,900	-30	10	39,100	2,400	-350
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,300	100	-20	1,430	70	70	240	10	-100	2,400	140	50
Manufacturing	10,100	90	-310	8,900	70	-680	1,220	0	20	6,600	150	50
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	4,200	30	190	6,400	330	140	490	10	10	6,700	120	-120
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	1,000	10	-10	1,220	10	-40	60	0	0	730	30	-40
Financial activities	860	20	20	970	10	30	150	0	0	1,520	50	80
Education & health services	4,400	40	200	4,600	30	-10	300	10	10	3,300	10	20
Leisure & hospitality	2,700	90	180	3,500	90	240	480	30	30	9,400	2,100	330
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	3,600	140	20	5,000	100	320	230	10	20	3,300	0	-220
Government	5,600	130	-160	4,400	240	-50	770	-100	30	5,200	-120	-500

*Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.